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DOCUMENTS

1. Accounts of Star Chamber Dinners, 1593-4.

At the close of the day's work in the Court of Star Chamber, the judges and clerk of the court and, on some occasions, the solicitor and attorney-general, dined at the public expense in the adjoining dining-room commonly called the Inner Star Chamber. This custom dated at least from the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. Among the Lansdowne collections in the British Museum are a number of manuscripts which throw light on the menus and expenses of these repasts and give some idea of what was regarded as a good dinner in the sixteenth century. Although at different times the Court of Star Chamber sat on different days of the week until, in the reign of Elizabeth, Wednesday and Friday became the customary Star Chamber days, Friday seems always to have been a favorite day, and in glancing over the elaborate bills of fare of some of the "fishdays" a suspicion arises that a weakness on the part of the "Lords of the Star Chamber" for the products of the sea may have had something to do with the determination of the court days.

Lansdowne MS. 1, Art. 49, is an account of the expenses of seventeen Star Chamber dinners "before Wolsey was Cardinal, 1509," to which is affixed, among other signatures, that of Wolsey as Bishop of Durham. The total cost of these dinners was £35 os. 5d. In Lansdowne MS. 69, Art. 6, is preserved "A note of the chardges of dynners of a fleshday and a dynner on a fishday in the Starre chamber" in the years 10, 13, 14, 15, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 33 Henry VIII. The least expensive "fleshday" dinner, that of Thursday, July 4, 30 Henry VIII., cost 30s. 7d., but on Monday, July 14, 14 Henry VIII., the expenses rose to 76s. 4d., and on Monday, May 4, 26 Henry VIII., when the ambassadors of Scotland were guests of the Lords, the cost of the dinner was £4 11s. 8d. The least expensive "fishday" dinner cost 43s. and the most expensive, that of January 26, 33 Henry VIII, cost 79s.

In Lansdowne MS. 58, Art. 60, will be found the itemized accounts of a "fleshe dinner" and a "fish daie" in February 1588, together with an estimate of the total expense of the Star Chamber

dinners of the year. The six dinners of "Candelmas Terme" cost £103 13s. 6d.; the eight dinners of Easter Term cost £138 4s. 8d.; the six dinners of Midsummer Term cost £103 13s. 6d. and the sixteen dinners of Michaelmas Term cost £276 9s. 4d.—making a total expense of £622 1s.

Lansdowne MS. 59, Art. 41, contains itemized accounts of six Star Chamber dinners in 1588 and 1589, the most expensive of which cost £21 9s. 11d., the least expensive £15 8s. 10d.

The economical Lord Burghley seems to have been disturbed by the growing extravagance of these dinners. On one of the leaves of Lansdowne MS. 1, Art. 44, are some notes in his own handwriting of the cost of the Star Chamber dinners of 1559, 1579, and 1590. According to these notes "the ordinary chardgs of a dynner" in 1559 were £4 10s. or £5 9s., while in 1579 they were £8 or £10, and in 1590 £17 or £18. The total cost of the dinners of 1590 was £1130—enough to alarm any Lord Treasurer.

All of the manuscripts just quoted are of interest, but of still greater interest, because the accounts it contains are more minutely and carefully made out, is additional MS. 32117 D., which is here published entire. The investigations of Burghley, whose signature, together with that of the Lord Keeper Puckering, appears at the end of the manuscript, may be responsible for the extreme minuteness of these accounts, and it is worthy of notice that the most expensive of these dinners cost £15 12s. 10d., which is a little less than the average cost of the dinners of 1590. It may be that Burghley put an end to the Star Chamber dinners altogether, for Hudson, in his *Treatise on the Court of Star Chamber*, written during the reign of James I., says that the custom of dining in the court was suspended for a time. "Yet surely," he adds, "it was happily renewed: it being a means of dispatch of much business, which, for the sparing of little money, was disappointed."

CORA L. SCOFIELD.

Diect dominorum Consilii CLXVI¹¹ V^s V^d ob.¹

So^{ur} ² p Stanley et allocat^r ei Terminis Michs et Pasche 1593 et 1594.
Termino sancti Hillary 1593.

Thexpences of the dyetts provided for
the Queenes maties most honorable
Counsell at her Graces Starre-chamber
During this Hillarye terme in the yeare
of the raigne of our most soueraigne
ladye queene, Elizabeth &c the XXXVIth.
1593. viz.

Die Veneris XXV^{to} Imprimis in bread³—XXII^s in beere—VII^s } XL^s VI^d
die January. 1593. VI^d in Ale—V^s in flower—VI^s —————

Praesentibus	Item in Oysters—III ^s in sweet butter—II ^s in	} my L. cheiffe Barron
my L. of Cant.	old Ling ⁴ —X ^s in Greene fishe—VIII ^s in	
my L. Keeper	salte Salmon—VIII ^s in salt Eeles—IX ^s in	
my L. of Buckhurst	Pykes—XVI ^s in Carpes—XVI ^s in Breames	
my L. Stafford	—XIII ^s in Tenches—VII ^s in Knobberds	
my L. B. of Worcester	—II ^s VI ^d in great Eeles—VIII ^s in Whittings—	
my L. Northe	XIII ^s in Perches—VIII ^s in Flounders—	
Sir John Fortescue	III ^s in Rochetts—VI ^s in Shrimpes—XVIII ^d	
Sir Tho : Hennage	in Playce ⁵ —VII ^s in Sooles—VI ^s in Trowtes	
my L. cheiffe Justice	VII ^s in Barbell ⁶ —V ^s in Crey fyshe—II ^s VI ^d	
of England	in Gurnerdes—VI ^s in Lampreis—III ^s in 1	
	freshe Salmon and a chyne ⁷ —XXI ^s in Smelts	
	—VII ^s in Scalopps—II ^s in lambe—III ^s IIII ^d	
	in Veale—II ^s IIII ^d in Codd ^s —III ^s in	} Mr. Cromwell
	Woodcocks—III ^s in Capons—V ^s in Quinces	
	—VI ^s in Crabbes—III ^s in Partridges—V ^s in	
	Larkes—XX ^d in Creame—II ^s VI ^d in pounded	} Mr. Mylles ⁸
	butter—VIII ^s in Apples—II ^s in Orringes	
	and Lemmans—XX ^d in Eggs—VI ^s in bar-	
	berries—XII ^d in Rosewater—XII ^d in por-	
	tag ^e —III ^s in boatehire in all—III ^s IIII ^d in all	

Sm^a—XV¹¹ V^s X^d.

p^r⁹

¹ Obolus, a halfpenny.

² "Solvitur."

³ Throughout these accounts the payment follows the purchase.

⁴ A kind of codfish.

⁵ Also spelled "plaise" and "playse."

⁶ Isaac Walton says, "a barbel, though he be of a fine shape, and looks big, yet he is not counted the best fish to eat, neither for his wholesomeness nor his taste."

⁷ A kind of salmon.

⁸ William Mill, made clerk of the Court of Star Chamber in 15 Elizabeth.

⁹ For "probatur". The auditor's mark of verification. In the manuscript it is generally above or on a line with the sum audited.

Die Mercurii VI ^o die Febr. 1593	Imprimis in Breade—XXIII ^s in Beere—VII ^s VI ^d in Ale—V ^s in flower—V ^s _____	XL ^s VI ^d
Praesentibus my L. of Cant. my L. Keeper my L.B. of Worcester my L. of Buckhurst Sir John Fortescue Sir John Wolley Sir Robte Cecill my L. cheiffe Justice of England	Item in Oysters—IIII ^s in XVI ^{ten} e stone of beeffe at XX ^d the stone—XXVI ^s VIII ^d in Bacon—IIII ^s in Neats Tounes—VIII ^s in Joynts of Mutton to boyle and to rost— XII ^s in Joynts of Veale to rost—XII ^s in II Joynts of Veale for Pyes—III ^s in Suett— III ^s in Marrowebones—II ^s in zeame for Fritters—IIII ^s in Lambe—X ^s in Capons— XVI ^s VIII ^d in Turkeyes—XVIII ^s in Pulletts —XIIII ^s in Partridgs—XV ^s in Mallards— IX ^s in Teales—VIII ^s in Woodcocks—X ^s in plouers —XII ^s in Snytes—VIII ^s in Larkes— V ^s in Rabbetts—VI ^s VIII ^d in hearbes—III ^s IIII ^d in Eggs—VIII ^s in pounded butter— XII ^s in Creame—II ^s IIII ^d in Apples for Tarts—II ^s IIII ^d in Orrenes and lemons— XII ^d in Rose Water—XII ^d in Barberryes— XII ^d in portage—III ^s IIII ^d in Bootehire in all —III ^s IIII ^d in all _____	Sir Tho. Mildmaye Sir Henry Knevett Sir Martyn Frobyser XII ^{li} VIII ^s VIII ^d Mr. Atturney Mr. Solicitor Mr. Asheley Mr. Mylles S ^m ^a —XIIII ^{li} IX ^s II ^d p ^r

[illegible]

Die Mercurii XIII^o Imprimis in Bread—XXIII^s in Beere—VII^s } XL^s VI^d
 die Febr. 1593 VI^d in Ale—V^s in flower V^s _____

Praesentibus	Item in Oysters—IIII ^s in sweet butter—II ^s	
my L. Keeper	in ould Lyng—XII ^s in Greenefishe—IX ^s in	Sir Michael Blunt
my L. of Buckhurst	salt Salmon—IX ^s in great Pykes—XII ^s in	Sir John Smythe
Sir John Fortescue	smaller Pykes—V ^s in great Carpes—XII ^s in	Sir Edw : Hobbye
my L. cheif Justice	smaller Carpes—V ^s in great Breames—XIIII ^s	Sir Henry Knevett
my L. Anderson	in Tenches—IX ^s in Perches—VIII ^s in great	
my L. cheif Barron	Eeles—VIII ^s in Knobberds—II ^s in salt Eeles	
Barron Vous	—VIII ^s in Flounders—V ^s in Trowts—VI ^s in	
Mr. Attorney	Creyfishe—III ^s in Gurnerds—X ^s in Whitings	XIII ^{li} XII ^s IIII ^d
Mr. Solicitor	—XII ^s in Lamperns—IIII ^s in one freshe	
	Salmon and a Chyne—XVI ^s VIII ^d in Smelts	
	—VI ^s in Rochetts—V ^s in Playce—VII ^s in	
	Shrimpes—XII ^d in veale—II ^s IIII ^d in lambe	Mr. Assheley
	—III ^s IIII ^d in Capons—V ^s in Stockfishe—	
	IIII ^s in Woodcocks—IIII ^s in Partridgs—V ^s	
	in Quinces—VI ^s in Larkes—XX ^d in hearbes	
	—III ^s IIII ^d in one Turbott—VII ^s in Creame	Mr. Crumwell
	—II ^s VIII ^d in pounded butter—XII ^s in	
	Apples for Tarts—XVI ^d in Eggs—VIII ^s in	
	Barberries—XII ^d in Rose-Water—XII ^d in	Mr. Mylles
	Orrenges and lemons—XX ^d in portage—	
	IIII ^s in Bootehire in all—IIII ^s IIII ^d in all _____	

Sm^a—XV^{li} XII^s X^d

p^r

Sm ^a Totall of the	} IIII ^{xx} X ^{li} XI ^s VI ^d
charges of	
thaforsaid sixe	
Dinners	p ^{ar}

Hereafter ensueth all manner of provitions necessarye for the furniture of the dyetts aforsaid provided in the Starchamber for the Q. ma^{ties} most honorable Counsell during this Hillary Terme.

1593.

Imprimis for VII loads of great Coales at XXV^s the load—VIII^{li} XV^s Item for XVIII sackes of small Coles at VII^d the sacke—X^s VI^d Item for V^c of faggotts at VI^s VIII^d the C—XXXIII^s IIII^d Item to Mr. Maior the Pewterer for II wyne gallons and VII Pyeplates weying XXXI^{li} di¹ at VII^d the li—XVII^s XI^d Item for IIII busshells of the best whyte salt at II^s the b³—VIII^s Item for III b³ of baye salt at XX^d the b³—V^s Item for II sacks to putt the said salt in—III^s IIII^d Item for X gallons of the best whyte wyne vineger at II^s the gallon—XX^s Item for XIII gallons of the best Redwyne vineger at XX^d the gallon—XXI^s VIII^d Item for XII gallons of the best verges² at X^d the gallon—X^s Item for III Rundletts³ to putt the said vineger and verges in—III^s VI^d Item for bootehire for the said salte and vineger at seuerall tymes—XVI^d Item for earthen potts saucepotts, pipkins⁴ and pannes spent in the kitchin this terme—IX^s Item for fyne whyte salte spent at the Lords table this terme—XX^d Item for Mustard and Onyons spent in the kitchin this terme—VI^s Item for II newe basketts bought for the markett this terme—III^s VIII^d Item for a small baskett to cary fruite in this terme—XVIII^d Item for another close baskett to cary and recarye the Naperye to and from the Starchamber this terme—III^s IIII^d Item for wast paper spent in the pasterye this Terme—III^s Item for Broomes spent in the office of the Starchamber this terme—II^s Item for clensing the withdrawing place—II^s VI^d Item for ale yeast in the kitchin this terme and for fetching the same—III^s IIII^d Item for carrying the dust and soyle out of the kitchin and other offices there this terme—II^s Item for perfumes for the Lords Dyneing Roome this terme—VI^s Item for Can-

¹ *Dimidiatas*, a half. The multiplication seems to be incorrect here.

² Verjuice. It was used in sauces and otherwise.

³ Small casks. Also spelled runlet.

⁴ Small earthen pots.

dells spent in the kitchin and Buttery this terme—II^s Item for XII gallons di. of the best redd wyne to fill up thother hoggesheads of wyne at II^s IIII^d the gallon—XXIX^s II^d Item for a Case of Oyster knives—IIII^s Item for XXXV hoops at II^d ob the hoope—VII^s III^d ob Item for truggs¹ and trayes—IX^s VIII^d Item for a newe Flaskett²—II^s VI^d Item for sand and whiting to Scowre withall—XVIII^d Item for II white brussches—VI^d Item for IIII doozen of Russhes to strawe the Lords Dyneing Roome at IIII^s the doozen—XVI^s Item for gathering together and keeping the vessell of the Starchamber this terme—VI^s VIII^d Item for dressing and keeping cleane of the Lords Dyneing Roome and other Roomes above this terme—III^s IIII^d Item for salt butter fetched from the Chandlers this terme aswell for the Raunge and pasterye as otherwise—XIII^s IIII^d Item for VIII ells of course canvas for wipers and baggs against this terme—VIII^s Item for heming and makeing of the said Wipers and Baggs and for thread—VI^d Item to the Plomer for mending the Pypes—III^s IIII^d Item to him for soulder for the pypes—IIII^s II^d Item for a hearem³ Roope to drye the wett naperye upon this terme—III^s IIII^d Item for carryeing and recaryeing the Starchamber plate—V^s Item to John Gill for carryeing it to and from the Starchamber and for his Diligence and well looking to it—V^s Item for II Cheshire cheeses bought for the Lords bord this terme—X^s Item for III new streyners bought for this terme—II^s VI^d Item for larde to larde the Lords meat this term—V^s Item for new glassing amending and leadding the glasse windowes in the Starre chamber in and against this terme—XXXVI^s III^d Item to Mr. Flint her maties Locksmyth for translating makeing and mending diuers lockes and keyes in and about the the Starchamber in and against this terme—III^{II} VII^s VIII^d Item for a Case of knyves for the Lords bord this terme—VIII^s Item to the Cowper for his paynes looking to the wyne diuers tymes—

¹ Wooden baskets for carrying chips or vegetables; vide Halliwell's *Dict. of Archaic and Provincial Words*.

² A clothes-basket or a shallow washing tub, according to Halliwell.

³ Probably a misspelling of haeren or heren, made of hair.

VI^s VIII^d Item for his boothhire at seuerall tymes
 —III^s IIII^d Item for XVII gallons of the best
 sacke at III^s IIII^d the gallon—LVI^s VIII^d Item for
 XVIII gallons of the best whyte wyne at II^s the gal-
 lon—XXXVI^s Item for VI gallons of Muskadyne
 at III^s IIII^d the gallon—XX^s Item for V gallons
 of Renishe wyne at III^s IIII^d the gallon—XVI^s
 VIII^d Item for fawcetts and quills¹ for the wyne
 Seller—II^s Item for II newe Gimbletts—V^s Item
 for bottles to bring the Lords wyne this terme—
 X^s Item for pack threed this terme—VI^d Item to
 the Cowper for his wages—V^s Item for his Boote-
 hire—IIII^s Item for strawing herbes and flowers for
 the Lords Roome this terme—VIII^s Item payed to
 the Grocer for all manner of Spyces spent in and
 about the Lords dyetts sixe dayes this terme as
 appeareth by a bill Remayning—XIII^{li} XIII^s VI^d
 Item for VI newe stooles—X^s Item a newe presse
 for the plate in the Starchamber—XXVI^s VIII^d
 Item for a newe table in the Buttery—VII^s Item
 for mending the Starrechamber formes—III^s Item
 for mending the Raunge—III^s IIII^d Item for
 portage and boothhire for the said Stuffe—III^s IIII^d
 Item for mending the buttery stayres—II^s Item
 for pales—II^s Item for a Coale shovell—XIIII^d
 Item for sweping of the Starchamber Chymneys
 —XVI^d Item for II loads of gravell—II^s Item for
 vrinnalls—VIII^d Item for a hoggeshead of Beere
 spent more than ordynary this term—VII^s VI^d
 Item for one kilderkin² of Ale spent more
 than ordinarye this terme—III^s IIII^d Item
 in Wages. viz to Stephen Treake. M^r Cooke
 for his wages for VI dayes at VI^s the daye—
 XXXVI^s Item to him for lending of his stuffe
 this terme after IIII^s the daye for VI dayes—
 XXIIII^s Item to him for the Boothhire of himself
 his men stuffe and necessaryes this terme—IIII^s
 Item to him for his paynes and travell in goinge
 to the markett and in reward—XXX^s Item to
 Edward Tomlynys the Butler for his wages for VI
 dayes after XII^d the daye—VI^s Item to him for

LXXV^{li} XIII^s XI^d ob
 p^{ar}

¹ Barrel-faucets.

² A small barrel.

whyte Cupps and trenchers¹ at XII^d the Dinner—VI^s Item to him for drincking glasses for the Lords this terme—V^s Item to him for Rosewater for the Lords table at XII^d the Dinner for VI Dinners—VI^s Item for sweet Powder to cast amongst the naperye this Terme—V^s Item for fawcetts and quills for beere and Ale this terme—XII^d Item for II Armeing knyves²—II^s VI^d Item to Thomas Gibson the under butler for keeping cleane and sweet the Pantrye and Seller this terme—II^s VI^d Item to him for a Chipping knyfe³—VI^d Item to him for bottles this terme—II^s Item to him for glaseing the Case knyves this terme—VI^d Item to the Laundres for washing the naperye VI dayes this terme at VIII^s the daye—XLVIII^s Item to the keeper of the drye larder for his wages for seruing out of spices butter Eggs fruit and other necessaryes this terme after XII^d the daye for VI dayes—VI^s Item to the scowrer of the Starrechamber Vessel this terme for her wages—VIII^s Item to Thomas Tucker the Porter for attending the doores VI dayes after XII^d the daye—VI^s Item to him for goeing to the markett this terme haveing IIII^d euerye daye for VI dayes—II^s Item to VII poore men laboring in the kitchin haveing VII^d a daye a peece for VI dayes—XXIII^s VI^d Item to Nicholas Smythe for exercising the Stewards office as well for his wages as for his paynes and travell in going to the markett this Terme—XL^s Item to William Goddard Vssher of the Starrechamber for diuers provitions and necessaryes provided and done for the Court of Starchamber as appereth by his Bill Remayning—Vⁱⁱ XVII^s VI^d in all _____

¹ Wooden platters.

² An arming-sword was a two-handed sword. An arming-knife may have been something like a modern chopping-knife.

³ Chippings were fragments of bread, a chipping-knife a bread-knife.

THE WHOLL CHARGES aswell of the dietts and provisions necessarye for the furniture of the same provided for the Queenes Ma^{ties} most honorable privye Counsell at her Graces Starre Chamber at westminster during this Hillary Terme in the XXXVIth yeare of her highnes most prosperous Raigne As also the wages of Certeine Officers and Ministers of the same. With—Vⁿ XVII^a VI^d layde out by the Vssher of the same Court as appeareth by his Bill Remayning—

CLXVIⁿ V^a V^d. ob.
XI^o April 1594.
Ex^{ar} ¹ Suma p Ric
Sutton in absen' Jo.
Thomson Aud.

Jo. Puckering C. S.

W. Burghley.

XXIX^o Aprillis
1594.

Mr. Staneley I praye you paye out Mr. Nicholas Smith the some of one hundred and threescore pounds thirtene shillings penny halpeny which some with three hundred pounds payd by you to him in Michas and Hillary termes last doth aswell make full payment of this Liberate² as of the some of two hundred fourscore fourtene pounds, seven shillings eight pence uppon his Liberate for Michas terme aforesayd, 1593 as by the same apereth.³

W^m Skyunner

2. *Letters of Bancroft and Buchanan on the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, 1849, 1850.*

THE letters printed below are taken from the voluminous papers and correspondence of the late Hon. Edmund Burke, of New Hampshire. Mr. Burke was a native of Vermont, but at the age of twenty-one removed to New Hampshire, in which state he held his residence until his death in 1882.

A lawyer by profession, he was from the days of Gen. Jackson's presidency down to Mr. Buchanan's administration, inclusive, among the most notable of Democratic politicians and ablest of political writers in New England.

He first made his mark as editor of the *Argus* newspaper, published in Claremont, New Hampshire, in 1833. The next year, removing to the adjoining town of Newport, he consolidated the *Argus* with the *Spectator* published in that town, the consolidated

¹ For "examinatur."

² A writ ordering a payment to be made and beginning with this word.

³ This note is not in the same handwriting as the rest of the manuscript.